

Greater Houston LEPC (GHLEPC) General Membership Meeting (January 26, 2011)

Call to Order:

Meeting called to order by Chairman Ben Price at 9:15 a.m. with 25 members present.

Approval of September 29, 2010 meeting minutes:

Motion to approve the September 29, 2010, minutes by Stephen Kastensmidt; seconded by Jim Indest. Motion carried.

New Membership Vote(s):

None.

Visitors:

1. Lori Wooten – SET Environmental, Inc.
2. Larry Robinson – Harris County Hospital District (HCHD)
3. Ray Higgins – HCHD
4. Chuck Wolf – Media Consultants
5. Kelly Stouer – Harris County Sheriff's Office(HCSO)
6. Kathryn Martin – HCSO
7. Tim Ware – Garner Environmental
8. Kyle Copeland – Garner Environmental
9. Charles Heredia – Port of Houston
10. Andrea Haywood - SET Environmental
11. Jon Thompson – SE TX Poison Control
12. Dennis Ribeiro – Houston Metropolitan Transit Authority
13. Terry Fisher – UT School of Public Health

Chairman's Report:

David Wade with the HC Office of Emergency Management reported it was time for the renewal of Essential Personnel badges that expired December 2010. Mr. Wade stated agencies with pending renewal applications would be receiving a phone call or emails notifying the badges were ready for pick-up.

Mr. Wade further stated the point-of-distribution for renewed badges is the CIMA President's office.

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Chair

Glen Trahan
Vice Chair

Lisa B. Saint
Treasurer/Secretary

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Pete Greco announced the LyondellBasell facility on 225 was currently conducting a major turn around for a scheduled restart in March 2011.

Mr. Greco reported CIMA has completed the first phase of its radio communications upgrade. One new repeater site was installed at Chevron Cedar Bayou site in Chambers County. There is also a 200 ft. repeater site in Bayport.

Mr. Greco stated CIMA members will be completely digital in 2012 and this will increase capability from 12 to 16 channels.

Another project Mr. Greco announced was the CIMA Specialist through the incident management team. CIMA is very engaged with the Jacinto City Incident Management Team and they are currently working on MOUs for becoming partners on this team. EHCMA and Company support is being provided for this initiative.

Mr. Greco stated CIMA is looking at the possibility of purchasing a command vehicle specifically for CIMA.

Lastly, Mr. Greco reported on a meeting with the Texas Forrest Service and the Gulf Coast Mutual Aid organizations. This meeting was to work through some mutual aid issues. The main purpose of this meeting was looking at ways to getting the companies involved in providing support during a state-wide incident. Issues include notification, logistics and credentialing needed to respond effectively to a state-wide emergency response effort.

Mr. York with HISD reported they are finalizing this year's Tier 2 submittal and also continuing analysis with their 3-year risk management cycle.

Chuck Wolf from Media Consultants gave a presentation on "The BP Oil Spill: Lessons Learned from the Deepwater Horizon JIC".

Subcommittee Reports:

I. Finance, Administration and Logistics:

A. Finance & Administration - Treasurer's (Lisa B. Saint) Report:

Nick J. Guillen, GHLEPC Administrator, announced total estimated ending funds as of January 26, 2011, were \$57,500.00 - \$58,000.00.

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II. Liaison - Jim Indest:

A. Local:

1. Community Emergency Coordinator – HFD HAZMAT:

No report.

2. Harris County – Fire Marshall Mike Montgomery:

No report.

3. Bellaire – Chief Anderson:

No report.

4. West University Place – Chief Steve Ralls:

No. report.

5. Jacinto City – Chief Lon Squyers:

No Report.

B. State – Jim Indest:

Mr. Indest announced the State is researching the area response plan for ways to incorporate local responders in the early, middle and late response efforts.

The Captain of the Port had representatives from HC, Brazoria, and Matagorda County emergency management agencies at the initial planning meeting. These representatives will be part of a committee that will re-write part of the contingency plans to reflect their involvement at all levels of the response effort.

C. Federal:

John Jacobi with US DOT, PHMSA, announced the safety alliance has put out a publication regarding emergency pipeline services issue surrounding existing pipelines. This is available online.

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Mr. Jacobi also announced plans are being made for inspection of all pipeline operators' public awareness programs. All pipeline operators in Southeast Texas will be inspected by the end of the calendar year.

III. Information – Joe Laud:

Nick Guillen announced there will be a Meta-Leadership Summit for preparedness on January 31, 2011, at the United Way of Greater Houston. The conference is scheduled from 8:30 a.m – 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Guillen also announced on February 2, 8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., the Houston and Pasadena Police Departments will be hosting a PPE technology briefing for regional public safety agencies at the HPD Training Academy.

Also, Dr. Denise Walker announced Lone Star College will have a Full-Scale “Active Shooter” Exercise at their main campus on Friday, March 25, 2011.

Attendees were encouraged to request to be put on the distribution list to get the Regional Training-Meeting-Exercise Calendar put out by the Coast Guard by emailing LCDR Leonard at joseph.j.leonard@uscg.mil.

IV. Old Business:

Nick Guillen stated the GHLEPC was awarded a FY 2011 State HEMP Commodity Flow Study (CFS) grant in the amount of \$65,656.00. The actual contracts are being finalized by the state.

Mr. Guillen announced once contracts are received from the State the Texas Transportation Institute would come in for the initial planning meeting to get the CFS started.

Mr. Guillen gave an update of the proposal from KLAT 1010 AM (Hispanic Radio) for HAZMAT public awareness safety messages. Mr. Guillen stated negotiations were still on-going with KLAT representatives concerning the lowering the cost associated with this proposal. Currently the cost is \$7,950.00 for a three month commitment.

Lastly, Mr. Guillen updated attendees about the status/research of the E-Notify/E-Merge system.

Mr. Guillen stated Dennis Storemski, Director, Mayor's Office of Homeland Security, made the determination the Houston Emergency Center (HEC) will not be purchasing E-Notify.

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Mr. Guillen stated even if the GHLEPC purchases the E-Notify system they would have nowhere to install the system because the GHLEPC's office is in the HEC.

Joe Laud, GHLEPC/HEC PIO, explained one reason was the Greater Harris County 9-1-1 System is moving to another system that has the same capabilities as the E-Notify System.

Mr. Guillen also announced again the GHLEPC has partnered with HFD Public Affairs to film public awareness sessions on the Vietnamese American Network (VAN-TV 55.2). Mr. Guillen urged members to join GHLEPC and HFD on future shows. Also, if anyone has emergency response information they would like presented on the show to let him know for planning of future sessions during 2011.

V. New Business:

None.

For the Good of the Order/Adjourn:

Meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m. Meeting minutes prepared by **Nick J. Guillen** (GHLEPC Administrator)

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